

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 26TH MARCH 2018 at 6.30PM

PRESENT:- COUN M A CARTWRIGHT(CHAIR)

Mesdames:- V Watson, A C Long, L Fenwick, K Hawley, K J Duffy & S Simpson

Messrs:- A T Wilkinson, A S H Meikle, S Kirkup, R Kyle, C Watkins, G L Carne, T Duffy, R Moore, S Miles, S D McGlen & A Watson

142. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been submitted by Councillor K Liddell, (work commitments), S McDonnell & J Robinson. **RESOLVED the Council approve the reason submitted for absence received from the Councillors listed, and their apologies for absence be recorded.**

143. Public Participation Session

A public participation session was held to allow members of the public an opportunity to put questions to the Council. Two representatives from the Lowhills Road Leisure Garden site were in attendance at the meeting as observers.

144. To receive declarations of interest

Members were reminded of the need to disclose any interests in items on this agenda, whether pecuniary or otherwise. Councillor Meikle declared an interest in item 151 (iv) relating to Peterlee Cricket Club and Councillor Wilkinson also declared an interest in relation to item 151 (i) being a school governor at Howletch Lane primary School.

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145. The Minutes of the Council Meeting of the 26th February 2018 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved, subject to the following amendments being made, Councillor S McGlen as being shown as in attendance:-
Minute Number 140 – The Spokesperson of the NEP Member’s Report Councillor A Watson reported he was concerned at the crime levels in the Town, he hoped that the promise of additional Police resources by Mr Hogg would show a difference in the town and if in 4-5 weeks these resources were not confirmed he would be chasing this up. Councillor Watson gave an update that it was hoped there would be up to eight more officers, however that could take up to 9 months to achieve.

Minute Number 141 – it be noted Councillor Kyle had nothing to add, however at that point in the meeting he then handed over to Councillor Fenwick who made a brief report.
146. The Minutes of the Resources Committee of the 5th March 2018 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.
147. The Minutes of the Community & Environment Committee of the 12th March 2018 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were approved.
Minute Number 90 – Lowhills Road Fencing
Members reported that the parking on the grass had reduced however gave a report of an injury of a footballer at the weekend. The Town Clerk confirmed he had now met with a representative of Northern Gasworks regarding any groundworks on Lowhills Road, he now intended contacting the highways Department, Durham County Council to confirm what their requirements would be in terms of fencing works next to the highway. **RESOLVED progress be awaited.**
148. Debt Recovery Process
The report of the Deputy Town Clerk informing Members of progress with the review and update of the Council’s debt recovery process and recommending the adoption of a new streamlined process for recovering debt, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was considered. **RESOLVED the contents of the report be noted and approval be given to the new debt recovery process.**
149. Final Budget 2018
The report of the Town Clerk seeking Members approval of the final draft revenue and capital budgets for 2018/19 was circulated to each Member. As a result of feedback from Members and a number of developments since the last

report had been presented, additional amendments had been made to the final budget which was now presented for approval. **RESOLVED the contents of the report be noted and the budget as circulated for 2018/19, be approved.**

150. Policy on the use of Council Facilities & Resources by Councillors

Members were recommended to approve this policy for the reasonable use of facilities and resources to assist Members in carrying out their duties as councillors or holders of an office within the Council. **RESOLVED this policy be approved for the reasonable use of facilities and resources to assist Members in carrying out their duties as councillors or as holders of an office within the Council in connection with the following business:-**

- (a) Holding ward surgeries
- (b) Dealing with correspondence from constituents
- (c) Communicating group activities within the group
- (d) Meetings between group members.

151. Town Community Initiative Fund – Applications

Members gave consideration to these requests for financial support and **RESOLVED the following grants be made:-**

- (i) Howletch Lane Primary School – towards the purchase of Small World Play toys - £355.44
- (ii) 1st Peterlee Scout Group – tables for inside and outside work - £325.00
- (iii) Durham Constabulary (Peterlee Police) – request for a prize for use in the Youth awards on 11 May 2018, £50.00
- (iv) Peterlee Cricket Club – Keeping Kids Active – finance towards new equipment, providing professional coaching for the Juniors - £238.72
- (v) East Durham Community Development Trust Ltd – Easter Fun Day - £200.00 from the Member’s Initiative Fund and £100.00 from the Mayor’s Charity Appeal Fund.

FURTHER RESOLVED that any underspend on the Members Initiative Fund be donated to the Citizens’ Advice Bureau.

152. Refurbishment of Woodhouse Park Toilets

Members were circulated with the report of the Town Clerk seeking approval of a proposal to substantially refurbish the public toilets at Woodhouse Park with new stainless steel fixture and fittings. **RESOLVED approval be given to the refurbishment and upgrade of the toilets at Woodhouse Park, at a cost of £19,363.95, as set out in the report, using Durham County Council Direct Services.**

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153. Spokesperson of the NEP Member's Report

Councillor A Watson gave details of recent patrols carried out by Members using the Speedwatch equipment. He felt the patrols were proving effective and would continue. He advised that anyone wishing to get involved could make arrangements to use the equipment and hold their own patrol(s). PCSO Michelle Burr was the main contact. Councillor Watson reported on the 8 new Police Officers to be working in the Town over the next 9 months. Councillor Watson reported he felt the Town Community Initiative Fund for all Members was a great success and he felt confident this was an excellent vehicle for local groups and organisations to be able to apply for funding.

154. Spokesperson of the Labour Political Party's Report

Councillor Kyle said he agreed with everything Councillor Watson had reported on and he hoped to continue to work and pull together.